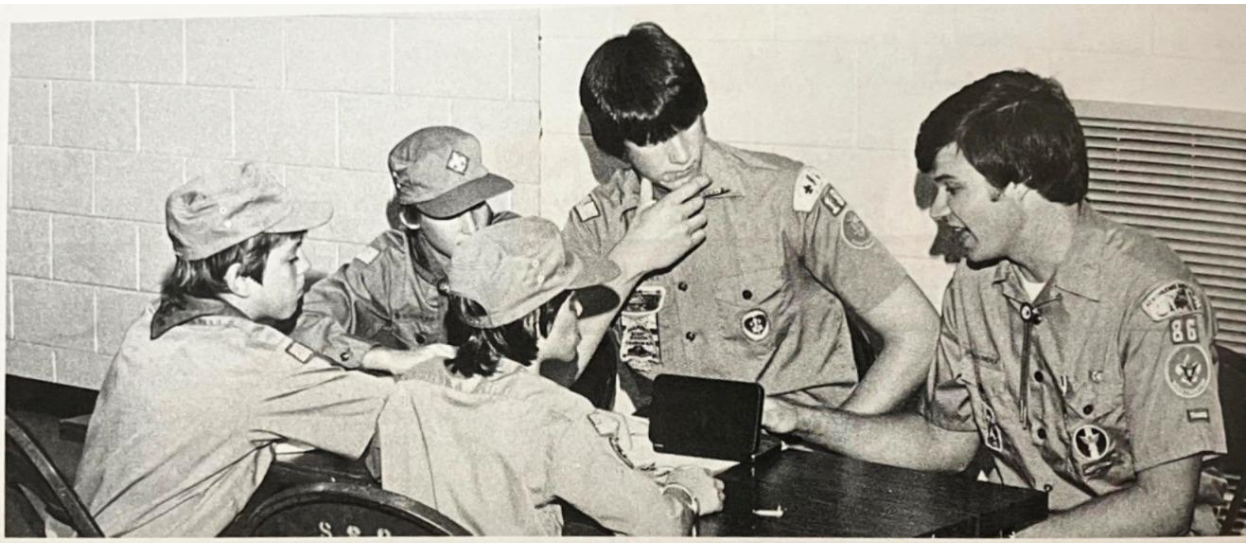
Retro #22 TROOP 86, FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Forty-five years ago, Brother Dwight Kenney, a 15-year veteran scoutmaster at the time, formed a new scout troop at St. Stanislaus during the 1979-1980 school year. He gathered 35 interested resident students who became the core of Troop 86. He focused on resident students because it was difficult for them to join local troops due to their dorm schedule at school. Also, it lightened the load of dorm prefects during the weekend since some of their boarders participated in scouting activities rather than remaining on campus.



Br. Dwight Kenney, far right, and patrol leader Joe Saia '81 meet three new Boy Scouts in 1980.

While day students could also join Troop 86, there were local troops available to them. Troop 86's first activities consisted mainly of day trips which included 5-mile hikes. After Br. Dwight purchased 20 canvas pup tents from an Army Surplus store in Jackson for only $50, the troop was able to begin some overnight camping trips.

Twenty of the young scouts persevered to the end of the year, learning not just how to cope with the rigors of advancing from tenderfoot to scout by hiking, camping, and competing at annual camporees, but more importantly how to develop their leadership skills and teamwork. One outstanding leader was Joe Saia, the first in Troop 86 to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. He had belonged to a scout troop in Wiggins, MS, before coming to St. Stanislaus and had achieved the rank of Life Scout in his old troop. As a senior patrol leader in the newly formed Troop 86, he helped the younger scouts while working on his requirements for Eagle Scout which he earned in 1980 during his senior year.

In January of 1980, *The Sea Coast Echo* devoted an entire page to St. Stanislaus's Troop 86 with six photos taken by Brother Peter Kosydar and an article written by staff writer Wayne Ducomb, Jr. The article and photos featured the troop's several hikes in Desoto National Park. The troop usually tried to take a trip at least once a month, usually on a Saturday. Besides the five or six mile hikes in the National Park, the weekends included classes on such practical things as preparing a backpack, sharpening knives and axes, building a fire, and so on.

The Sea Coast Echo

feature

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 1980-1B

By WAYNE DUCOMB JR.

Hancock County's newest Boy Scout organization is St. Stanislaus' Troop 86 in Bay St. Louis.

"Brother Kenny Dwight S.C. serves as scoutmaster. He is one of the most qualified young scoutmasters in our council or in any other council," says Jim Groce, district executive, New Orleans area council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Troop 86 recently hiked down several trails in Desoto National Park in Harrison County near Saucier.

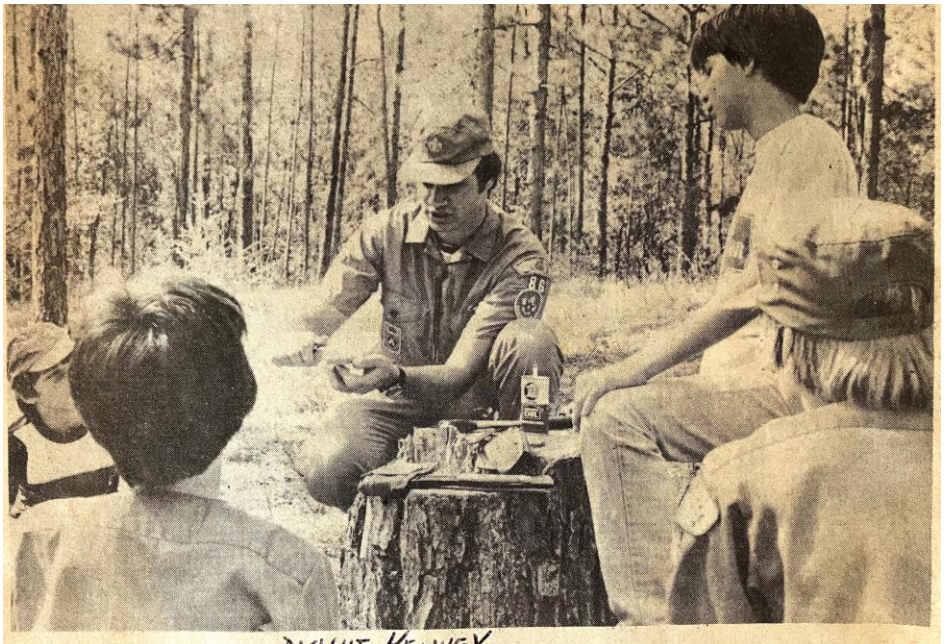
"We took two Saturdays making one five mile hike one day and a six mile hike the following Saturday," said Brother Timothy Casey, assistant scoutmaster.

"The boys learn certain skills, on these outings, which earns them credits toward passed certain requirements for various scout badges," Brother Timothy explained.

"We try to have a hike or camping trip each month," Brother Timothy added.

"Brother Dwight is an Eagle Scout, a vigil member of the Order of the Arrow, Camp Salman staff member for six years, a former assistant scoutmaster of Troop 80 in New Orleans and holds the Woodbadge recognition— scouting's most advanced leadership training," Groce explained.

"We look for an outstanding Scout program at St. Stanislaus," Groce added.



SCOUTMASTER TEACHES—Brother ~~Timothy Casey~~ DWIGHT KENNEY S.C., scoutmaster, demonstrates knife and axe sharpening to the Wildcat Patrol of Troop 86 during a recent hike in Desoto National Forest near Saucier. Huddled together during the outdoor class are Jimmy Crawford, Richard Vinson, Brother Dwight, Gene Moore and Dan Smythe.

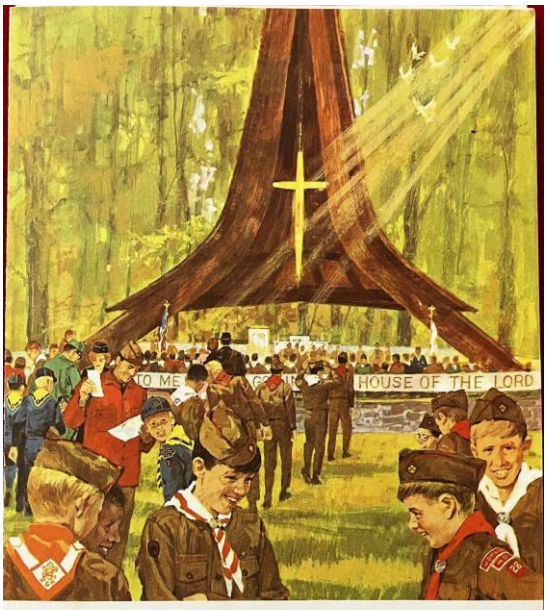
A highlight of every year for the scouts is what they call the camporee, a gathering of several troops from a designated district. It usually includes camping, competitive games, and opportunities to earn merit badges. Seven scouts from Troop 86 that first summer were able to attend the camporee at Camp Vee Bar where they earned 18 merit badges, helping the troop place second overall in the district, an outstanding achievement for a young troop. Troop 86 was off to a fine start.

FIREBUILDERS—Troop 86's Wilcat Patrol practices fire-building as part of a recent hiking trip in Desoto National Forest near Saucier. St. Stanislaus students gathered around the fire site are Robert Fournet, Dan Smythe, Richard Vinson and Glenn Tchou.

PACKING IT—St. Stanislaus' Wolverine Patrol of Troop 86 discusses backpacking techniques. Participating in an explaination of equipment are Danny Dennison, Richard Del Buno, an unidentified scout and Joe Saia. The backpacking class was part of a recent hiking exercise in Desoto National Park near Saucier.

TAKES A HIKE—St. Stanislaus' Flaming Arrow Patrol hikes through Desoto National Forest. Walking down the pathway from left, are Jimmy Klingman, Dennis Fontenot, Barnes Longacre, Eric Werner and Fernando Paez. Troop 86's recent hiking trip familiarized the boys with scouting activities.

At the November 1980 Annual Recognition Banquet of the Cypress District at Camp Salmen in Slidell, LA, Troop 86 of St. Stanislaus received an Honor Unit Award and a National Camping Award. Its senior patrol leader, Joe Saia '81, was honored as an Eagle Scout from Troop 86.



CYPRESS DISTRICT

NEW ORLEANS AREA COUNCIL

Scouter's Annual Recognition Banquet

Friday, November 14, 1980, 7:30 P. M.

CAMP SALMEN
SLIDELL, LOUISIANA

1980 HONOR UNIT AWARDS

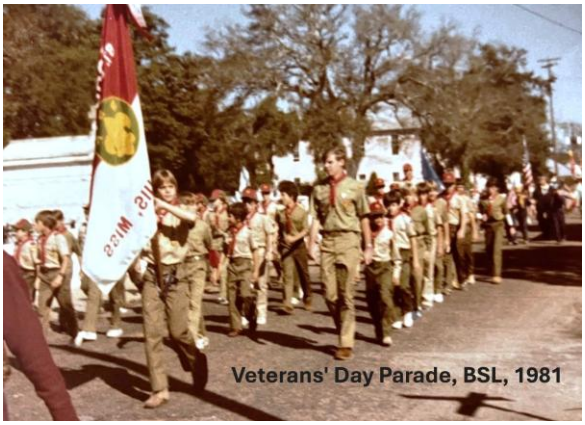
Pk. 212	St. Clare School
Pk. 57	Bay Catholic Elementary
Pk. 208	American Legion Post #139
Pk. 325	Chahta Ima School
Pk. 343	Walter Abney Elementary
Pk. 344	Florida Elementary School
Pk. 345	Bonne Ecole School
Pk. 360	Clearwood Junior High School
Pk. 365	St. Margaret Mary Church
Pk. 363	Carolyn Park School
Tp. 86	St. Stanislaus
Tp. 208	American Legion Post #139
Tp. 210	Waveland V.F.D.
Tp. 219	Pearl River Lions Club
Tp. 326	Slidell Jaycees
Tp. 346	First Christian Church
Tp. 365	St. Margaret Mary Church
Tp. 424	Bonne Ecole PTA

1980 NATIONAL CAMPING AWARD

Tp. 86	St. Stanislaus
Tp. 326	Slidell Jaycees
Tp. 219	Pearl River Lions Club
Tp. 346	First Christian Church
Tp. 325	Lacombe United Methodist Church
Tp. 210	Waveland Volunteer Fire Department
Tp. 365	St. Margaret Mary Church
Tp. 424	Bonne Ecole P.T.A.
Tp. 364	Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church

The next year, Troop 86 in full uniform proudly marched through the streets of Bay St. Louis in the Veterans' Day Parade. Future activities would include backpacking in New Mexico at the Philmont Scout Ranch, trips to Disney World, camping in various states throughout the South, whitewater rafting, and hiking in the Smokey Mountains. More importantly over the next few years, several more scouts in Troop 86 developed teamwork and leadership skills, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

RESTS A MINUTE—Troop 86 takes a breather during a recent hiking trip in Desoto National Forest near Saucier. Gathering in a small clearing from left, are Dennis Fontenot, Brother Timothy S.C., Danny Dennison, Mike Sprull, Jimmy Klingman, Joel Salzburg, Glen Tchou, Robert Fournet, Chad Hollier, Joe Saia, Jessie Fitzgerald, Jimmy Crawford, Dan Smythe, Roger Hackler and Eric Werner.



Veterans' Day Parade, BSL, 1981

Br. Xavier Werneth, SSC Archivist, June 2025